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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,181	10/20/2003	Noorallah Laiwalla		2707

7590 12/21/2006  
Daniel P. Tierney  
17 Moon Beam Dr.  
Mountain View, CA 94043

EXAMINER
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KIM, AHSHIK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/21/2006	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/689,181

Applicant(s)

LAIWALLA ET AL.

Examiner

Ahshik Kim

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/20/03 (initial filing of application).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

5 Re claim 1, claim number is missing. Claim should begin with claim number.

Re claim 1, line 1: delete "What we claim as our invention is: "

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

- 10 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

15 (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 20 3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoutenburg et al. (US 7,086,584, hereinafter “Stoutenburg”) in view of Buttridge et al. (US 2003/0033252 A1, hereinafter “Buttridge”).

Stoutenburg discloses a device embodied as a point-of-sales terminal (see abstract)  
5 comprising a microprocessor - 32-bit CPU 305 (see figure 3A; col. Xxx); a card reader (col. 1, lines 34+), which reads three-track magnetic card (col. 10, lines 31+) or a driver’s license (col. 10, lines 15+); a check reader (col. 4, lines 50+); a keyboard interface for entering any numbers for the transaction (col. 8, lines 21+); a plurality of switches (represented as a diamond from figures 5B thereafter) some of which are programmed and some require user input; a thermal  
10 printer (col. 11, lines 57+) for printing various transactional information; a fingerprint reader (col. 11, lines 4+); an Ethernet connection and dial-up modem to communicate with other hosts (col. 13, lines 31+); and PCMICA card – a removable memory storage - interface (col. 13, lines 45+).

Stoutenburg fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest that the device is further  
15 comprised of a camera.

Buttridge discloses a system and the methods for check processing at a point-of-sale terminal (see abstract; paragraph 0001 thereafter). The point-of-sale terminal is comprised of biometric sensor which includes signature capture device, fingerprint scanner, and a digital camera, capturing the face of the customer (see paragraph 0048).

20 In view of Buttridge’s teaching, it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further incorporate well-known digital camera for taking the facial image of the customer to the teachings of Stoutenburg in order to improve customer

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authentication scheme. Although verification of fingerprint may provide acceptable level of customer verification, retrieving stored picture image of the customer may be beneficial since a clerk (or assigned personnel) can verify the customer by comparing the face to retrieved picture image of the customer. Such modification, as disclosed in Buttridge, is an obvious improvement  
5 one ordinary skill in the art could contemplate.

### Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's  
10 disclosure: Stinson et al. (US 6,149,056); Carney et al. (US 5,890,141); Brikho (US 6,886,743); Friedman (US 2004/0111371); Nichols et al. (US 6,354,491); Hsu et al. (US 6,038,666) disclose systems and apparatus for checking identity in transaction. Applicant is respectfully suggested to carefully review these references.

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the  
15 examiner should be directed to *Ahshik Kim* whose telephone number is (571)272-2393. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 6:00AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's  
20 supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571)272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571)273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35  
25 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [ahshik.kim@uspto.gov].

*All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly  
30 signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.*

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent  
35 Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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application is available for Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions or access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Ahshik Kim  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876  
December 15, 2006

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